

Department of Public Health  
and Human Services

Section:

ABLE BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT  
DEPENDENTS

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM (SNAP)

Subject:

Overview

**Supersedes:** FS 800 (04/01/06)

**References:** 7 CFR 273.7, 7 CFR 273.24, FS Act section 6 (D)(2)

**GENERAL RULE**--The Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) provision limits the receipt of SNAP benefits to three initial months and up to three extended months in a 36 month period. Montana was granted a waiver from this limit in 11 counties and the reservations for one year based on labor market statistics (SNAP 802-1). In Yellowstone, Silver Bow, Missoula and Lewis and Clark Counties ABAWDs without exemptions who enroll in SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) will not have time limits while participating in SNAP E&T.

### ► **THREE-MONTH RULES**

The following rules apply to ABAWD time limits.

1. Montana has determined its 36 month period to be a fixed period starting 12/01/08 through 11/30/11.
2. The initial three months do not need to be consecutive.
3. The extended months must be consecutive, only apply in particular circumstances (SNAP 803-1), and can only be used once in any three year period.
4. Prorated months do not count as an ABAWD month.
5. Any month issued as an ABAWD month and not verified as not received will continue to be counted as an ABAWD month (e.g., an Electronic Benefit Transfer card is credited for a non-exempt participant, but is not used, would still count as an ABAWD month).
6. Any month of participation in which an individual is exempt from ABAWD provisions due to either a personal exemption or a waiver provision does not count toward the individual's three month participation limit.
7. Months in which an individual is coded 'DF', 'DS' or 'DQ' on the SNAP SEPA screen for any reason, are not counted as an ABAWD month for that individual.

8. If a person becomes ABAWD exempt during an ABAWD month, the exemption takes effect the month following the month the exemption is reported. An exception is the month of the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday when the exemption begins the first of the month in which the participant turns 50.
9. In a SNAP E&T County, individuals are exempt from time limits by attending SNAP E&T.
10. In a SNAP E&T County, if an individual reappplies who has used all of his/her ABAWD months, the individual can regain eligibility by enrolling in SNAP E&T. An individual who has exhausted ABAWD months is not considered eligible, however, until he/she has actually enrolled in SNAP E&T (803-1).
11. When the ABAWD period has expired a timely notice of adverse action must be sent.

## PROCESSING

1. Evaluate each ABAWD applicant/participant for ABAWD exemptions. All ABAWD exemptions must be verified. Form HCS-545 can be used as a tool (not a required form) to determine possible exemptions. The HCS-545, in and of itself, is not considered verification. ABAWD status must also be evaluated at six month report and recertification.

**NOTE:** If an OPA Case Manager has reason to believe an applicant or new household member might have received SNAP benefits in another state, the Case Manager is required to call the other state to confirm the closure date and number of their ABAWD months used.

The only exception to this requirement is if the individual has a hard copy verification from the other state confirming the closure date and ABAWD months used. Document information received on CANO.

Montana will only count ABAWD months from another state if the months were counted or should have been counted based on the other state's regulations.

2. Document each member's ABAWD status on TEAMS case notes (CANO) at application, when status changes, at six month report and recertification. The TEAMS case note must state which exemption was claimed and verified. The case note must be titled

“ABAWD” and must indicate ABAWD policy has been explained to non-exempt individuals.

**Example:** ABAWD – Jim moved from Oregon where he used one ABAWD month. He now resides in a geographically exempt county and has no other ABAWD exemptions. ABAWD months will not count while he is living in Sanders County. ABAWD policy has been explained to Jim.

3. Alerts on both ETAL and PRAP screens should be set to assist in the tracking of ABAWD months. In addition, alerts must be set for significant birthdays within the recertification period (18 and 50).

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